How GET differs from other state 529 plans

State prepaid tuition plans, like GET, and state college savings plans are known as 529 plans after the IRS federal tax code that authorizes them. Under both plans, the after-tax money you put in will grow tax-free and all withdrawals will be exempt from federal income taxes as long as you use them for qualified higher education expenses.

However, with a 529 college savings plan, you take on all of the investment risk and worries associated with volatile financial markets. With GET, the State of Washington assumes the investment risk so you don't have to worry.

	529 Prepaid Tuition Plan (GET)	529 College Savings Plan
Tax-deferred growth	✓	✓
Tax-free withdrawals	√	✓
Favorable financial aid treatment	√	√
Investment choice and risk	State chooses investments, shoulders investment risk	You choose investments, shoulder investment risk
Future value of your account	Guaranteed by the state to keep pace with rising college tuition	Based on the performance of your chosen investments